

I urge my colleagues to join me in commending the praiseworthy efforts of my fellow Californians at the Industrial Emergency Council who help protect us from the dangers we face every day.

RECOGNIZING SHERIFF RONNIE
TOUNGETTE'S 26-YEAR SERVICE
TO HUMPHREYS COUNTY

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2006

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a local hero who has dedicated his life to making sure our community stays safe. After 26 years as Humphreys County Sheriff, Ronnie Toungette is retiring.

Toungette was born in Mt. Pleasant, Tennessee, grew up in West Nashville and later moved to Waverly, where he eventually became a sheriff's deputy. In 1980, he was appointed county sheriff, and the people of Humphreys County re-elected him to that position again and again.

Sheriff Toungette has been instrumental in cleaning up the numerous methamphetamine labs that have sprouted up as Humphreys County and other communities across the country have fought to control the spread of the dangerous drug. Humphreys County has been a leader in combating meth, and Ronnie's efforts on that front should not go unnoticed.

Toungette and his wife, Darlene, have five grown children, Ronnie, Jr., Stephanie, Shelly, Marcella and Amanda; and eight grandchildren, Matthew, Zachary, Scott, Trey, Tyler, Kirston, Kayla and Kylie.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Sheriff Ronnie Toungette on his retirement and thank him for his 26 years of service as the sheriff of Humphreys County. His tireless work has helped make our community a safe and secure place to live.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
RHETT PAYNE, JR.

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2006

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, recently, south Alabama lost a dear friend, a man who was the epitome of a true southern gentleman, and I rise today to pay tribute to his memory.

Rhett Payne was a kind and gentle man. He was generous to a fault and good to the core. Moreover, he came from the era that Tom Brokaw has called "the Greatest Generation." Mr. Rhett answered his country's call to service when World War II broke out—as so many other young boys did at that time—and he returned home a few years later to help make his beloved Jackson a better place to live.

He was a success in business, retiring as district manager for Liberty National Life Insurance Company after three decades of service.

Moreover, he was a winner in life, circling himself with numerous friends and confidantes who all enjoyed his sound judgment, wise counsel and his good humor.

Perhaps the ultimate feather in Mr. Rhett's distinguished cap was his beloved wife of 59 years, Jean, and their two sons, Rhett III and Bill, and the wonderful families they have helped to foster.

Mr. Speaker, there have been many tributes made to the life of Rhett Payne since his untimely passing but none, I think, captures his very essence as a good and decent man better than the article written by my friend, Jim Cox, publisher of the South Alabamian. With your permission, I would like to enter Jim's tribute to Rhett Payne at this time:

The fairways are lush and unbroken. The greens are like the felt atop a quality pool table. It is a perfect golf course . . . but perfect means there are even some challenging holes.

Bounding over the crest of the hill is a youthful Rhett Payne Jr. trailed by his good friend, an equally young and vigorous Bob Harper. They are having a great time. They should be. They are playing the "Cloud 9 X 2" course at No. 9 Heavenly Lane.

I smiled through my tears as I fancied the scene while the Rev. Rhett Payne III was speaking at his father's funeral Saturday at the First Presbyterian Church in Jackson where the senior Payne was a longtime member.

The image was prompted by the Rev. Payne's—"Little Rhett"—reference to his dad being buried with his favorite putter in his hands. He commented that the late Bob Harper, a good friend and longtime president of Merchants Bank, had nicknamed him "Puttin' Payne."

The senior Payne was a charter member of the Jackson Golf Course. He loved the game and a tournament was named in his honor in 1994.

For over 25 years, Rhett and Jean Payne have been a part of my life. Jean has worked with me and for me in the newspaper business. She's earned the nickname "Aunt Jean," from a host of younger people she's come in contact with and influenced over the years, me included.

If she was an aunt, then Rhett was certainly a grand uncle, although the handle was rarely added.

Rhett Payne was a southern gentleman—courtly, well-mannered, and soft-spoken. He didn't gossip much and he rarely criticized or downgraded people.

His son and others commented on his constant and contagious smile and that, along with his sparkling eyes and easy laugh, is what I will remember about Rhett Payne Jr.

Rhett loved to laugh and have a good time. His laughs were not loud guffaws but soft chuckles. They were real and authentic, not put ons.

Rhett was of the "Greatest Generation," a group of World War II veterans who served their country and the world honorably in a time of great crisis and then came home to work and help mold and develop communities. They are fast leaving us and their replacements are not of the same caliber.

By the time I really got to know Rhett, he was retired as a district manager for Liberty National Life Insurance. He had worked for the company for 3 decades.

By then, Jean and I were working together. I'd see him at the office and at office parties, and I visited him frequently in their home where I was always a welcomed guest.

Rhett was 88 when he died last week but I never thought of him as being old. While he and Jean were old enough to be my parents, I always thought of them more as peers and contemporaries than as "old folks."

Rhett III did a wonderful job Saturday eulogizing his dad. He stepped the congregation through the seasons and through amusing in-

cidents that he and his younger brother, William McCrary "Bill" Payne, remembered of their growing up years with Rhett and Jean.

He detailed his parents' love and said they went out almost every Friday night, still "dating" to keep their love alive.

They were married for 59 years.

Jean and Rhett loved to dance. If you never saw them performing on the dance floor, you really missed something. Think of Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers and you'll come close.

I was at some event, political or newspaper, I'm not sure, years ago and the Paynes were there, too. There was a band and a few couples were muddling through dances. I was at the back of the room when I noticed the crowd parting around the dance floor. I edged to the side of the group and there was Jean and Rhett. It was then that I really understood the phrase "cutting a rug." They were having a ball. And so was everybody watching them.

Time is not important in Heaven. Rhett may be enjoying his golf game now but he will trade his golf shoes for his dancing shoes one day when he'll swing his beloved Jean out across a celestial dance floor.

Of course, we are in no hurry down here, Rhett. Enjoy your game!

Mr. Speaker, may the entire Payne family draw some comfort during their time of grief with the knowledge that their beloved husband, father and grandfather will be sorely missed.

COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN CON-
DEMNS BOMB BLASTS IN BOM-
BAY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, the Council of Khalistan has condemned the train bombings in Bombay this week. Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, whom most of us know, said that "this is a terrible incident and shameful for whoever carried it out. Terrorism is never acceptable."

The attacks have been attributed to Lashkar-e-Taiba, a Kashmiri organization. One thing you have to say about Lashkar, though: normally, they take responsibility for what they do. But as Dr. Aulakh pointed out, they have not done so in this instance and the attack fits the pattern of the kinds of attacks carried out by the Indian government and its operatives, which the Council of Khalistan details in the release. These include the Air India bombing, the many attacks on Christian groups, the Gujarat massacre, and the fact that as the Washington Times reported, India is sponsoring cross-border terrorism in Sindh. These are not the acts of a responsible democracy.

This kind of activity is the mark of a terrorist state, Mr. Speaker. If we are serious about fighting terrorism, we should stop our aid and trade with India and we should support a free and fair plebiscite in the minority nations that seek their freedom in South Asia.

COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN CONDEMNS TRAIN
BOMBINGS

WASHINGTON, DC., July 12, 2006—Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, today condemned the train bombings in Bombay in which 190 people were killed and over 660 were injured.

"This is a terrible incident and shameful for whoever carried it out," Dr. Aulakh said. "Terrorism is never acceptable." He endorsed the request to donate blood for the victims. "We should join together to take care of the people who were victimized by this brutal attack," he said. The Council of Khalistan leads the peaceful, democratic, nonviolent movement to liberate Khalistan, the Sikh homeland that declared its independence from India on October 7, 1987. Dr. Aulakh was interviewed on WRC-TV Channel 4 news in Washington yesterday about the bombings. Dr. Aulakh noted that the first-class cabins were bombed. "This is where the rich people hid," he said. No one has taken responsibility for the attack, although the Indian government has blamed the Kashmiri organization Lashkar-e-Taiba.

"This is the kind of thing the Indian government is quite capable of carrying out itself," Dr. Aulakh said. He noted that the book *Soft Target* shows how the Indian regime bombed its own airliner in 1985, killing 329 innocent people, to justify further repression against the Sikhs. The flight was bound for Bombay. The book quotes an investigator from the Canadian Security Investigation Service as saying, "If you really want to clear the incidents quickly, take vans down to the Indian High Commission and the consulates in Toronto and Vancouver, load up everybody and take them down for questioning. We know it and they know it that they are involved." The book shows that within hours after the flight was blown up, the Indian Consul General in Toronto, Surinder Malik (no relation to Ripudaman Singh Malik), called in a detailed description of the bombing and the names of those he said were involved, information that the Canadian government didn't discover until weeks later. Mr. Malik said to look on the passenger manifest for the name "L. Singh." This would turn out to be Lal Singh, who told the press that he was offered "two million dollars and settlement in a nice country" by the Indian regime to give false testimony in the case.

India fomented and pre-planned the massacre of Muslims in Gujarat, according to a police officer who was quoted in the newspapers. Government forces were caught red-handed in a village in Kashmir, trying to burn down the Gurdwara (Sikh place of worship) and some Sikh homes, to blame the Muslims. Two independent investigations, one carried out jointly by the Movement Against State Repression (MASR) and the Punjab Human Rights Organization and the other carried out by the International Human rights Organization of Ludhiana, both concluded that Indian troops carried out the massacre of 38 Sikhs in Chithlisinghpura. Both former President Bill Clinton, in his introduction to Madeleine Albright's book, and New York Times reporter Barry Bearak came to the same conclusion. The killers dressed as "militants" but spoke to each other in the language of the Indian army. This is just one of many incidents where the Indian army or its paid "Black Cats" paramilitary have been caught carrying out terrorist incidents while trying to create the impression that they were alleged "militants."

The Indian newsmagazine *India Today* reported that the Indian government created the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, identified by the U.S. government as a terrorist organization. The January 2, 2002 issue of the *Washington Times* noted that India sponsors cross-border terrorism in Sindh. The Indian newspaper *Hitavada* reported that India paid the late governor of Punjab, Surendra Nath, \$1.5 billion to foment and support covert state terrorism in Punjab and Kashmir.

A report issued by MASR show that India admitted that it held 52,268 political pris-

oners under the repressive "Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act" (TADA) even though it expired in 1995. Many have been in illegal custody since 1984. There has been no list published of those who were acquitted under TADA and those who are still rotting in Indian jails. Additionally, according to Amnesty International, there are tens of thousands of other minorities being held as political prisoners. The MASR report quotes the Punjab Civil Magistracy as writing "if we add up the figures of the last few years the number of innocent persons killed would run into lakhs [hundreds of thousands.]" The Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, more than 300,000 Christians in Nagaland, over 90,000 Muslims in Kashmir, tens of thousands of Christians and Muslims throughout the country, and tens of thousands of Tamils, Assamese, Manipuris, and others. The Indian Supreme Court called the Indian government's murders of Sikhs "worse than a genocide."

Government-allied Hindu militants have burned down Christian churches and prayer halls, murdered priests, and raped nuns. The Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) described the rapists as "patriotic youth" and called the nuns "antinational elements." Hindu radicals, members of the Bajrang Dal, burned missionary Graham Stewart Staines and his two sons, ages 10 and 8, to death while they surrounded the victims and chanted "Victory to Hannuman," the Hindu monkey-faced God. The Bajrang Dal is the youth arm of the RSS. The VHP is a militant Hindu Nationalist organization that is under the umbrella of the RSS.

"Only in a free Khalistan will the Sikh Nation prosper and get justice," said Dr. Aulakh. "This is the only issue. India is a terrorist state in which we will never escape from the repression and tyranny," he said. "It is time to liberate Khalistan so that the Sikh Nation can live in freedom, security, prosperity, and dignity," he said. "Remember the words of former Akal Takht Jathedar Professor Darshan Singh: 'If a Sikh is not a Khalistani he is not a Sikh.' The only way we can escape the terrorism and repression is to free Khalistan. Khalistan Zindabad."

IN RECOGNITION OF CAPTAIN RONALD CHASTAIN

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2006

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask the attention of the House today to pay special recognition to Air Force Captain Ronald Chastain, a native of Jacksonville, Alabama and the son-in-law of a long-time colleague of mine who was recently honored for saving a man's life.

On May 29th, Captain Chastain, an Air Traffic Control specialist stationed in Okinawa, Japan, was on his way to welcome home a fellow airman returning from Iraq when he noticed a vehicle that had crashed and caught fire. He, and two other men, acted quickly and risked their own lives to pull the victim from his burning car. Their heroism helped save the victim's life, and on June 15th, the Okinawa Prefectural Police Department held a ceremony in Chastain's honor for his actions.

A graduate of Jacksonville High School, Chastain is fulfilling his dream of seeing the world and serving his country. He is guided by God's grace and love for his family. He said his wife, Susan, and sons, Hayden and Caleb,

were in his thoughts as he worked to rescue the man from his burning car that dark and rainy night.

I salute Captain Ronald Chastain for working to save this man's life, for his continued efforts to serve and protect our country, and for helping serve as a role model for us all.

IN RECOGNITION OF MARION PAUL SANCHEZ, SR.

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of a great American, Marion Paul Sanchez, Sr. June 2, 1922–May 27, 2006. I honor him today for his service in the United States Navy during World War II and his dedication to his family.

Mr. Sanchez served on the USS *Kula Gulf* CVE 108 during World War II. The USS *Kula Gulf* was commissioned on May 12, 1945 and on August 5 was assigned to the 7th Fleet in the Western Pacific. The *Kula Gulf* patrolled the East China Seas, shuttled planes between Saipan and Guam, and transported veterans of the Pacific Theater around the region and back to the United States.

After returning from the war, Mr. Sanchez married MaryAnn Del Razo in 1948 and began what would become a 59-year marriage. Mr. Sanchez decided to follow in his father's footsteps and began a career in agriculture, where he spent 50 years growing produce in California's Central Valley. Over the course of his career he employed hundreds of workers and grew cotton, tomatoes, lettuce, garlic, asparagus, cantaloupes, bell peppers, alfalfa, prunes, grapes, sugar beets, and corn.

Farming allowed Mr. Sanchez to pursue his true passion in life, which was raising his family. He had four boys; Theodore, Richard, Ronald, and Marion. Through the years, the Sanchez family has grown, and Mr. Sanchez became the proud grandparent to 11 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren. Mr. Sanchez took great pride in his family and loved spending time with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Mr. Sanchez was an avid golfer and played 18 holes, 2 days a week, until his passing in May of 2006. Mr. Sanchez's approach to the game of golf illustrates his approach to life. He was dedicated to the game, always willing to try new things, and never let a bad round affect the next.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and heartfelt gratitude that I salute Marion Paul Sanchez, Sr. for his service to our Nation and dedication to his family.

IN RECOGNITION OF SERGEANT RON LOMPART

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2006

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition, and with thanks, for the 31 years of exemplary service Police Sergeant Ron Lompert has given to the City of Simi Valley, California.